

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the coded image is provided on a card medium and contains: (i) record location information indicative of a record location at which said coded image is recorded on said card medium, and (ii) information regarding a name of an additional card medium which records an additional coded image to be subsequently read by a user. In addition, claim 5 has been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the code image reading apparatus comprises medium information obtaining means for obtaining information regarding the name of the additional card medium from the coded image input by said image inputting means, based on the record location information obtained by the record location information obtaining means. And it is respectfully submitted that these amendments are fully supported by the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 34, lines 17-26.

In addition, claims 2-4 have been amended to better accord with amended claim 1.

Still further, new claims 15 and 16 have been added respectively depending from claims 1 and 5 to recite the feature of the present invention whereby the coded image further includes additional record location information indicative of a record location on the additional card medium, at which the additional coded image to be subsequently read by the user is recorded. And new claim 16 also recites the features of the present invention whereby the medium information obtaining means obtains the information regarding the name of the additional card medium and the additional record location information indicative of the record location on the additional card medium, from the coded image input by the image inputting means, based on the record location information obtained by the record location information obtaining means; and whereby the outputting means outputs for the user the information regarding the name of the additional card medium and the record location information indicative of the record location on the another card medium. And it is respectfully submitted that new claims 15 and 16 are also fully supported by the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 34, lines 17-26.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 1-5 and the addition of claims 15 and 16 be approved and entered.

PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-7 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 6,330,976 ("Dymetman et al"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 5, a card medium which records information as an optically readable coded image, and a coded image reading apparatus for optically reading a coded image from a card medium which records information as an optically readable coded image are provided, wherein the coded image contains:

(i) record location information indicative of a record location at which the coded image is recorded on the card medium, and
(ii) information regarding a name of an additional card medium which records an additional coded image to be subsequently read by a user.

That is, according to the present invention as recited in claims 1 and 5, information may be divided into a number of coded images, and the coded images are recorded on respective card mediums. When the user reads an arbitrary coded image with the reading apparatus, the reading apparatus indicates, based on record location information included in the coded image, another

card medium on which a coded image to be subsequently read is recorded. Thus, the user need only select the next card medium as indicated by the reading apparatus, and have the reading apparatus read the coded image recorded on the card medium in order to obtain desired information.

By contrast, it is respectfully submitted that Dymetman et al discloses a technique whereby machine-readable marks are embedded in a document. For example, according to the teachings of Dymetman et al, page position information and document identification information are recorded on the marks such that the marks may be utilized for acquiring information from a network. (See the abstract of Dymetman et al.) That is, it is respectfully submitted that Dymetman et al merely discloses a technique whereby location information (character, image or the like) printed on a document, which can be read by the user, is obtained based on coded marks, and that information related to the location information is obtained through a network.

Thus, as recognized by the Examiner, Dymetman et al does disclose the use of markings which include location information indicative of the location of a coded image on a medium. It is respectfully submitted, however, that Dymetman et al does not disclose, teach or suggest the feature of the claimed present

invention whereby the recording medium is a card medium. And it is respectfully submitted that Dymetman et al clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest that information is divided amongst a plurality of coded images on a plurality of cards. And it is therefore respectfully submitted that Dymetman et al clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest the feature of the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 5 whereby the coded image includes information regarding a name of an additional card medium which records an additional coded image to be subsequently read by a user.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 5, as well as claims 2-4, 10, 15 and 16 respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Dymetman et al, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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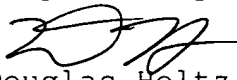
In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

Application No. 10/086,426
Response to Final Office Action

Customer No. 01933

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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